

# THE INDEPENDENT.

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## THE INDEPENDENT

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Henry Von Werthern's Case in Full  
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Henry von Werthern, an American youth who was seized by the Hawaiian officials and cast into prison, has made public his affidavit and the substance of his claim against the Dole government for \$25,000. Von Werthern's story is even more interesting than those of Messrs. Klemme and Rooney.

A good deal of interest has been taken in the stories of the exiles, which have been published exclusively in the Bulletin. The Eastern press has been copying the affidavits in full, and the statements have been made the subject of much editorial comment.

Von Werthern alleges that:

I, Henry Von Werthern, am an American citizen. I was born in Louisiana and am 23 years old. I have lived with my parents in Honolulu for about six years. During the past year I carried on the business of a broker for Chinese firms, a collector and general agent. During nearly a year after the formation of the provisional government (January, 1893), I was employed by the Marshal of the islands in the so-called secret service. I was placed as a detective upon the tracks and actions of certain of my friends and acquaintances, whom the government disliked and suspected of royalist sentiments, with instructions to observe all their acts and conversation, so far as possible, and report same to the Marshal. I was one of several persons so employed.

The parties whom I was set to watch did nothing illegal or suspicious, and my repeated reports to that effect so provoked the Marshal that he insulted and abused me for not bringing him stories of dynamite. As a result, I was dismissed from his employ, with my salary for two months unpaid and with the enmity of the Marshal and his superiors. From that time on I was among the many proscribed persons concerning whom it was notoriously threatened by the Marshal and his minions that at the first appearance of revolt (which always been imminent in Honolulu) should be shot down without trial and without question. The ostensible cause of such proscription was the distasteful course of the pro-

scribed in either expressing or harboring (as supposed) opinions adverse to the policy of the government.

I was in no way connected with the late revolt against the government of Hawaii. I knew nothing of the plans of the insurgents except what was common street and newspaper rumor. I had done nothing to bring upon myself the suspicion or odium of the government further than to criticize its course of conduct and to deride its republican pretensions. I was not a member of any club or party formed or existing with the purpose of insurrection.

On the afternoon of January 7th last while pursuing my regular business. I was arrested by police officers of the government, without a warrant, and taken to the police station. There I asked upon what charge I was arrested, and was told there was no charge; but I was searched and all my papers and personal effects removed from my person. About an hour later, in company with many others who had been similarly arrested, I was marched under an armed escort to Oahu prison. There I was placed with another prisoner in a cell 5 by 7 feet in size, and had nothing to eat for many hours, and only a hard biscuit until late the following day. The weather was hot and sultry for many days, and the ventilation of the cells being bad, I suffered greatly, having been kept in my cell during twenty to twenty-two hours per day and fed poorly and irregularly for several weeks, and allowed insufficient exercise. In these respects my treatment was, during the first of my imprisonment, similar to that of P. M. Rooney, H. A. Juen and others whose statements in this behalf I have seen.

January 24th I was separated from all other prisoners and placed in a cell in the main building of the jail. I was fed on the coarsest fare and not allowed to use knife or fork to eat with. I had two meals a day, with about twenty minutes outside my cell on each occasion, which was all the opportunity for exercise allowed me. My cell was damp, and so dark even at midday that I could not read ordinary newspaper print. I sent a complaint by my mother, who was allowed to see me, to the American Minister concerning this treatment.

After a week's confinement in those dark quarters, as above described, I was marched, in company with other political prisoners, under armed escort, through the streets to the police station, carrying my bedding. During the last week, as described, I was not allowed to converse with any one, and the deprivation of opportunities for either reading or conversation, while lying in a damp cell during twenty-three hours of the day, was most severely felt by me.

In the police station I was placed (after a night spent in a cell with two other prisoners), in a separate cell; the turnkey told me he had orders to keep me in close confinement, and to allow me only one hour's exercise per day. I was ordered to converse with no one, and the order was enforced.

After a week so spent in the police station I was returned to the Oahu Prison. I then received better fare, more chance for exercise, a lighter cell and one prisoner for company during time of exercise.

About February 15th the Jailor called me to the office, told me that others were being released on a promise to leave the country and asked if I would do so. I replied that I had done nothing that should force me from the country and would not consent. He urged me to consider the proposition and

(Continued on 4th Page)

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